



The Season of Lent

March 20, 2022

Prelude

Welcoming

Lighting the Christ Candle

Christ, the Life and Light of the World,
as we travel through this Lenten journey
lead us from ignorance to enlightenment,
from denying you to self-denial,
from shadows to light,
from fasting to feasting,
from death to life eternal.

Call to Worship

Come, all who are thirsty.

Come, all who are seeking.

Come, all who are waiting.

Come, all who labour.

Come, all who need rest.

Come, all who dream dreams.

Come –

whether you're young or old,

confident or curious,

lonely or hopeful.

This is God's house. All are welcome here.

Let us worship holy God.

Centering Hymn: Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

(Voices United 684)

Music © 1968 Franciscan Communications Centre

The United Church Publishing House

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- 1 Make me a channel of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me bring your love;
where there is injury, your healing power,
and where there's doubt, true faith in you:
- 2 Make me a channel of your peace:
where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;
where there is darkness, only light;
and where there's sadness, ever joy.
O Spirit, grant that I may never seek
so much to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love with all my soul.
- 3 Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
in giving to all that we receive,
and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

Call to Confession

There is something so healing, so life-giving, about telling our stories.

In the prayer of confession, that is what we get to do.

The mask comes off. Any pretense of perfection is removed.

We let the pressure to preform slip away and we sit here,
face to face with God, sharing honestly who we long to be.

Friends, there is healing here.

There is life to be gained here.

So join us in this moment of honesty.

Prayer of Confession

Holy God,

**we treat self-worth like something that can be bought at a store;
but you know this even better than we do.
Instead of trusting that we are made good,
instead of trusting that we are loved exactly as we are,
we stockpile our value in earthly things –
in trophies and awards, in likes and follows, in wealth and power.
Forgive us for creating our own measuring stick.
Heal our open wounds and tell our hearts
that we won't be forgotten if we slow down.
We won't be forgotten is we rest. Gratefully we pray, amen.**

Words of Forgiveness

Friends, take a deep breath.
Release the tension in your jaw.
There is good news here.

For even when we stumble,
even when we take the easy way out,
even when we forget our own self-worth,
even when we lose our way – we belong to God.

**We are loved. We are claimed. We are under God's wing.
We are worthy of grace. We belong to God. Amen.**

Opening Hymn: Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom

(More Voices 10, vs. 1 & 2)

Words: Ruth Duck, 1993

Music: Donna Kasbohm, 1995

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- 1 Come and seek the ways of Wisdom,
she who danced when earth was new.
Follow closely what she teaches,
for her words are right and true.
Wisdom clears the path to justice,
showing us what love must do.

- 2 Listen to the voice of Wisdom,
crying in the marketplace.
Hear the Word made flesh among us,
full of glory, truth, and grace.
When the word takes root and ripens,
peace and righteousness embrace.

Scripture Readings

Prayer for Illumination

Hebrew Scripture: Isaiah 55:1-9

Gospel Reading: Luke 13:1-9

Reflection (Nancy)

Hymn of the Day: Jesus Christ is Waiting

(Voices United 117, vs. 1, 3 & 5)

Words: John Bell, 1984

Music: French carol, 15th century; harm. The Iona Community 1984

Words and Harmony © 1988 WGRG, The Iona Community, G.I.A. Publications

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- 1 Jesus Christ is waiting, waiting in the streets;
no one is his neighbour, all alone he eats.
*Listen, Lord Jesus, I am lonely too.
Make me, friend or stranger, fit to wait on you.
- 3 Jesus Christ is healing, healing in the streets;
curing those who suffer, touching those he greets.
*Listen, Lord Jesus, I have pity too.
Let my care be active, healing just like you.
- 5 Jesus Christ is calling, calling in the streets,
'Who will join my journey? I will guide their feet.'
*Listen, Lord Jesus, let my fears be few.
Walk one step before me; I will follow you.

Prayers for Others and Ourselves: O Divine Healer
Video Presentation by The Work of the People

Affirmation of Faith

We believe that the God of the cosmos is at work here.

We believe that God is fertilizing the soil.

We believe that God is planting roots.

We believe that God is growing fruit that is yet to be tasted.

But until that promised day
when the fig tree stands tall and swords are beaten into plowshares,
we believe:

when our work does not bear fruit,

God still loves us.

When our soil grows dry and cracked,

God still longs for us.

When all seems hopeless here on earth,

God holds hope for us.

The God of the cosmos is at work here.

We believe. Help our unbelief.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Parting Hymn: Will Your Anchor Hold in the Storms of Life

(Voices United 675, vs. 1, 2 & 4)

Words: Priscilla Jae Owens 1882

Music: William James Kirkpatrick 1882

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- 1 Will your anchor hold in the storms of life?
When the clouds unfold their wings of strife,
when the strong tides lift and the cables strain,
will your anchor drift or firm remain?
Refrain We have an anchor that keeps the soul
steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
fastened to the rock which cannot move,
grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!

- 2 It will surely hold in the straits of fear,
when the breakers tell that the reef is near;
though the tempest rave and the wild winds blow,
not an angry wave shall our bark o'erflow. *Refrain*

- 4 When our eyes behold, through the gathering night,
the city of gold, our harbour bright,
we shall anchor fast by the heavenly shore,
with the storms all past for evermore. *Refrain*

Benediction

As you leave this place,

may you be awestruck by the beauty of this world.

May you laugh, and may it be contagious.

May you overflow with love for those around you.

May you be effusive with hope and quick to point out joy.

And in all of your living, and breathing, and being,

may you find yourself full to the brim with God's Holy Spirit,

and may it change your life.

In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself-

go in peace, full to the brim. Amen.

Postlude

Worship Leaders – Nancy Walker and Bill Cantelon

Music Leader – Elaine Zandee

Musicians – Joe Bradley, Stephen Godfrey, John Hobbs, Kate Insley,

Kathy Rassenti and Doug Thompson

Welcoming – Stephen Godfrey, Scripture Reading – Louise Johnston

Technical Support – Rob Glenn and Bill Walker

Greeters – Jean Hazemi and Orma Paton

Spirit Kids Program – Leslie Moffat

*Flowers for the service are offered by Barbara Shobbrook,
in celebration of the lives of her mother, Evelyn Shobbrook
and her mother-in-law, Marjorie Graham.*

*Flowers are also offered by Pat Shumka,
in celebration the life of her husband, Les Shumka.*